

(C) REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 17 – 21 and 24 – 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) on the grounds that they are anticipated by Dean et al. (the Dean reference). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F. 2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The Dean reference discloses the use of a liquid coolant system for cooling the patient enclosure an MRI system. The Dean reference specifically indicates that, while "liquid cooling does a better job cooling system components" and that "higher currents and cooling efficiency must be sacrificed in air cooled systems." Dean at ¶20.

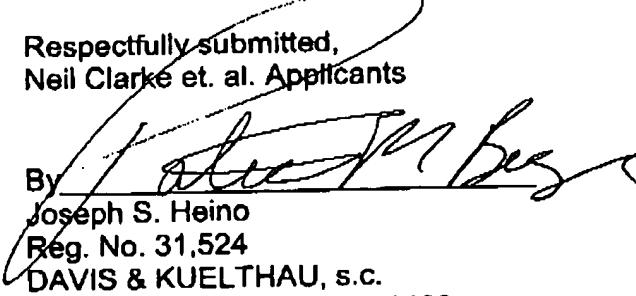
The present invention provides for an air-cooled patient bore such as that shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7. The claims, as amended, reflect the nature of the invention in much more detail and are believe to be allowable over the Dean reference.

More specifically, claim 1, as amended now reflects the embodiment depicted in FIG. 4 of the application. Claim 5 is now includes limitations corresponding to FIG. 5 of the application. The remaining claims have also been amended to more specifically recited the limitations of the invention. That is, the amended claims now more specifically claim describe and claim the air cooling assembly for use in an RF coil, something not disclosed or claimed in the Dean reference. As currently amended, the claims are not anticipated by the Dean reference.

The applicants have provided a new, useful and non-obvious improvement to cool the patient area of an MRI system. For their ingenuity, they are entitled to the

protection of the United States patent laws. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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